

4034-60 (4034-20)
Serial No.: 09/688,392
Filed: October 16, 2000

Attachment A

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PTO/SB-16 (2-95)
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PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53 (c).

| INVENTOR(S) | | | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|--|--|--------------|
| Given Name (first and middle (if any)) | | Family Name or Surname | | Residence (City and either State or Foreign Country) | |
| Roger P. | | Hoffman | | 2780 Queen Ann Court Green Bay, WI 54304 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional inventors are being named on the _____ separately numbered sheets attached hereto | | | | | |
| TITLE OF THE INVENTION (250 characters max) | | | | | |
| SYSTEM AND PROCESS FOR REQUESTING A QUOTATION | | | | | |
| Direct all correspondence to: CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Customer Number | | <input type="text"/> | | Place Customer Number Bar Code Label here | |
| OR Type Customer Number here | | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Firm or Individual Name | | Weiss & Weiss. Philip M. Weiss | | | |
| Address | | 500 Old Country Road, Suite 305 | | | |
| Address | | | | | |
| City | | Garden City | | State | NY |
| Country | | USA | | ZIP | 11530 |
| | | Telephone | | 516-739-1500 | 516-739-2189 |
| ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply) | | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification Number of Pages | | 4 | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Statement | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) Number of Sheets | | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) | |
| Check for \$75.00 | | | | | |
| METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT (check one) | | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check or money order is enclosed to cover the filing fee | | FILING FEE AMOUNT (\$) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge filing fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number: | | | | | |
| The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government. | | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the name of the U.S. Government agency and the Government contract number are: | | | | | |

Respectfully submitted,

SIGNATURE

Philip M. Weiss

Date

11/7/00

TYPED or PRINTED NAME

Philip M. Weiss

REGISTRATION NO.
(if appropriate)

34,751

Docket Number

TELEPHONE

516-739-1500

USE ONLY FOR FILING A PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.51. The information is used by the public to file (and by the PTO to process) a provisional application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 8 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the complete provisional application to the PTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C., 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Box Provisional Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Roger P. Hoffman

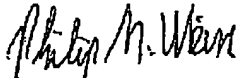
For: SYSTEM AND PROCESS FOR REQUESTING A QUOTATION

Box Provisional Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Enclosed is a Provisional Application with a postcard, check in the amount of \$75.00 and small entity form. Please send back postcard and assign Serial Number, filing date.

Respectfully Submitted,

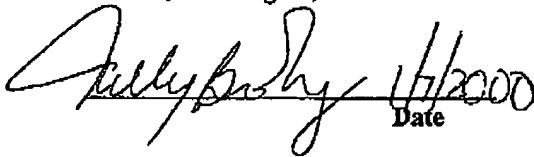


Philip M. Weiss, Esq.
Reg. No. 34,751

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Date of Deposit: January 7, 2000

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SYSTEM AND PROCESS FOR REQUESTING A QUOTATION

Background of the Invention

In the world of business, a buyer requests a quotation from a particular seller about buying a product from the seller. Based on the specifications provided by the buyer to the seller about the product, which include, quantity, shipping date, method of shipment and other characteristics, the seller provides a quotation to the buyer.

Over the Internet, most transactions are conducted between a consumer and a company providing a product to a consumer. A consumer usually chooses a product from a catalog and then purchases the product with a credit card. The product is then shipped by the company to the consumer.

There is nothing presently on the Internet which will allow a business to business transaction, where the payment is not simply a credit card.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention relates to a system and method for requesting a quotation. A buyer logs onto the Internet and inputs all of the attributes that he requires for the product that he wishes to purchase. A list of suppliers that can fulfill the request made by the buyer is then presented to the buyer. The buyer can then e-mail to each of the sellers the request for quotation. How long it takes for each seller to respond to a request for a quotation is a feature of the present invention. The buyer can either respond to the seller via e-mail or other standard methods of response.

A further objective of the present invention is to provide a means of establishing credit. The database can establish minimum credit worthiness. Buyers can establish the

suppliers they wish to deal with and vice versa. Buyers can research and identify the suppliers.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a means for brokers to act as selling agents for companies who do not want to sell to any buyer directly.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a glossary; standard format data on a wide variety of product attributes and an industry – specific search engine.

Detailed Description of the Invention

Below are some specific examples of how a transaction under the present invention would occur.

Example 1

Buyer X wishes to request a quotation for paper rolls. Buyer X types into the database all of the attributes that he wants for the paper rolls. Included in these attributes is the basis weight of the paper, the area of the country where X would like the rolls made, delivery time, method of delivery, etc. Although the buyer can type in all of the attributes that he wishes the product to have, a chart with all of the standard information which is required, such as delivery date, etc. can be provided in a chart form.

Oftentimes the buyers of products do not know the specific attributes that exist in the products that they purchase as they relate to their particular needs. For example, a printer may find that in some instances, paper purchased from two different suppliers varies in the amount of "showthrough" = a phenomenon whereby the printing is visible through the paper.

The buyer can enter "showthrough" and find the particular paper characteristics that influence showthrough such as "opacity." The suppliers would all provide data on product attributes in a standard format such that the buyer can compare suppliers.

To help facilitate these types of purchasing decisions, the present invention in a preferred embodiment provides a glossary, standard format data on a wide variety of product attributes and an industry-specific search engine.

This document is then sent into a database which stores information provided by the suppliers or sellers of such goods. The information provided by the sellers should be updated constantly, preferably monthly, and more preferably weekly or daily. The System compares the attributes requested by buyer X with the information stored in the database provided by the sellers. The system then provides a list of sellers to buyer X which can match the attributes requested by Buyer X. If no sellers can directly match the attributes that are requested by buyer X then the five or ten closest sellers are sent back to buyer X for analysis. The system is able to sort the attributes so that the buyer can understand what attributes the sellers can not provide.

Buyer X can then choose which sellers that he wishes to request a quotation from. The seller however, may not want to provide a quotation to the buyer. If the seller does not want to provide a quotation to buyer X, but a broker or middle man would provide a quotation to buyer X and be responsible for any credit risk, when the quote for such a seller is requested, the system will automatically refer the request for a quotation to a broker for this seller.

In a case where the seller does not know the specific buyer, but can find out the credit worthiness of the buyer, if the credit worthiness is not acceptable to the seller,

buyer X can also be quoted from a broker who is willing to take the risk on buyer X
paying.